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Although the list includes no species whose occurrence in Tennessee is improbable, it is to be regretted that Mr. Rhoads should not have been content to record not only the "10 of doubtful record," but a few others also, as species of probable occurrence, without including them and numbering them as a part of his list. He could have given the evidence in such cases 'for what it may be worth,' and thus have saved giving to his list, to say the least, a very unscientific flavoring. So many such inclusions render it very far from a 'hard-and-fast' list. In fact we are surprised to see a writer of Mr. Rhoads's scientific ability and experience setting such a bad example in the matter of a local list.—J. A. A.

**Short's Birds of Western New York.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Short's former list (see Auk, XI, 1894, p. 168), published in 1893, contained 207 species, one of which is here omitted, and to which 23 are now added, giving a total of 229 species in the present edition. The annotations respecting the rarer species are brought down to date. The typographical execution has been greatly improved, the list being for the most part neatly arranged and printed; towards the close the compositor seems to have run short of type, supplying the deficiency, in certain letters, from a smaller font. The list has evidently been prepared with care, and may doubtless be regarded as a trustworthy enumeration of the birds of the region to which it relates.—J. A. A.

**A List of Nebraska Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—This paper is primarily designed to give the residents of Nebraska some knowledge of the distribution, comparative numbers, and economic value of the birds which occur in their State. An opening chapter, 'Remarks about Birds in general,' treats of their relation to man and of their economic and esthetic importance. The list proper includes brief annotations on distribution and manner of occurrence, with, in some cases, remarks on the bird's food and its value to the agriculturist. Herein are recorded 415 species and subspecies. Of these *Xema sabinii*, *Sterna paradisæa*, *Tantalus loculator*, *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*, *Sitta pusilla* and *Merula migratoria propinqua*, seem to have been introduced on insufficient evidence, while *Quiscalus quiscula*, *Acanthis linaria rostrata*, *Junco hyemalis oregonus*, *Lanius ludovicianus*, *Seiurus noveboracensis* are included as a result of evident misidentifications. Subtracting these eleven birds and we have

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of Western New York. With Notes. By Ernest H. Short. Second Edition, 1896. Frank H. Lattin, Publisher, Albion, N. Y. 8vo, pp. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Some Notes on Nebraska Birds. A List of the Species and Subspecies Found in the State, with notes on their distribution, Food-Habits Etc. Corrected to April 22d, 1896. By Lawrence Bruner, Professor of Entomology and Ornithology, University of Nebraska. Rep. Nebraska State Horticultural Society, 1896, Lincoln, Neb. pp. 48-178, 51 cuts in the text.

left at least 400 species and subspecies, a larger number than has been recorded from any other State, except California, and nearly three-fourths of the total number of birds known from the Mississippi Valley. This unusually rich avifauna, as Professor Bruner remarks, is due both to the faunal position of Nebraska and to its diversified topography. — F. M. C.

**Cory's 'Hunting and Fishing in Florida,' with 'a Key to the Water Birds of the State.'**<sup>1</sup>—The strictly ornithological portion of the work, or the 'Key,' consists of pages 133–304, and is limited to a consideration of the Water Birds of Florida, beginning with the Grebes and ending with the Plovers. It is profusely illustrated with process cuts in the text, most of them very effective and pleasing, but a few show that they were made from specimens that were defective in respect to taxidermy. The key proper consists of a cut of the head (and sometimes of other parts, as the foot) of each genus treated with a few lines of text to each species, in which the distinctive characters are emphasized by the use of heavy type, followed by a reference to the page where the bird is later more fully described. What may be called the key proper, with its accompanying cuts and diagrams, occupies about fifty pages, and is followed by a descriptive list of the species, consisting of a brief but apparently sufficient diagnosis of each, and a short paragraph on the character of its occurrence in Florida. Nearly every species mentioned is illustrated with a cut of the head, often of both male and female where the sexes differ, or by a full-length figure, all original and prepared expressly for the present work. Says the author: "In preparing the present Key, I have striven to make it as simple and non-technical as possible, my object being to enable any one totally unfamiliar with birds to identify with comparative ease any species of Florida water-bird." Apparently his effort to make the way easy, even for the novice, should be successful.

Preceding the bird part is a chapter devoted to the snakes of Florida, in the form of a copiously annotated list. There is also an annotated list of the mammals of the State, evidently prepared with much care, in which we note that the Florida panther is characterized as a

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Hunting and Fishing | in | Florida, | including a | Key to the Water Birds | known to occur in the State. | By | Charles B. Cory. | Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago; Fellow of the | Linnæan and Zoölogical Societies of London; Member of the American Ornithologists' | Union; of the British Ornithologists' Union; Honorary Member of the | California Academy of Sciences, etc., etc. | Author of | "The Beautiful and Curious Birds of the World," "The Birds | of the Bahama Islands," "The Birds of Haiti and San | Domingo," "The Birds of the West Indies," "A Naturalist in the Magdalen Islands," etc., etc. | For sale by | Estes & Lauriat, | Boston, Mass. | 1896. Sm. 4to, pp. 304, 2 photo-gravure plates, and about 200 cuts in the text.